

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5287

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5564

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT RO

SUBJ: TENTH UNION OF COMMUNIST YOUTH (UTC) CONGRESS

REF: (A) STATE 246523; (B) BUCHAREST 5391; (C) BUCHAREST A-52
OF MARCH 14, 1975

1. SUMMARY. THIS TELEGRAM PROVIDES BACKGROUND FOR BRIEFING AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (ACYPL) DELEGATION TO NOVEMBER 3-5 UTC CONGRESS, THE FIRST SINCE THE JULY 1971 RCP PARTY ACTIV IDEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE AT WHICH THE UTC AND OTHER YOUTH ORGANS WERE SEVERELY CRITICIZED BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU FOR THEIR LACK OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT AND MOTIVATION. SINCE THE APPOINTMENT IN 1972 OF A NEW UTC FIRST SECRETARY, ION TRAIAN STEFANESCU, EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON MORE INTENSIVE POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY AND INTEGRATION OF YOUTH INTO THE ECONOMY. IN LINE WITH GOR'S ACTIVIST, INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY, A LARGE NUMBER OF NON-COMMUNIST YOUTH AND STUDENT DELEGATIONS AMONG THEM ACYPL AND NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION FROM U.S., WILL ATTEND THIS YEAR'S CONGRESS. RCP POLEXCO MEMBER EMIL BOBU IS THE RCP CC SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILIZATION. AT THE JULY 1971 PARTY ACTIV MEETING ON IDEOLOGY CEAUSESCU STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE UTC FOR ITS "INTELLECTUALISM", "BUREAUCRATISM" AND "NEGLECT
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OF WORKING YOUTH" AND CALLED FOR STRONGER PARTY CONTROL OF THE

YOUTH ORGANIZATION WHOSE MEMBERSHIP NOW NUMBERS ALMOST 3 MILLION YOUNG ROMANIANS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14-26 (UTC STATUTES, HOWEVER, PROVIDE FOR AN EXTENSION OF AGE LIMITS FOR LEADERSHIP CADRE). IN WAKE OF CRITICISM, UTC SINCE 1972 HAS ORGANIZED YEARLY STUDY COURSES WITHIN ITS RANKS ON RCP POLICY AND IDEOLOGY AND STEPPED UP ITS NATIONAL ECONOMIC MOBILIZATION EFFORT AND PROPAGATION OF WORK ETHIC. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON ORGANIZATION OF "MUNCA PATRIOTICA", OR VOLUNTEER WORK PROGRAMS. BUCHAREST STUDENTS CLAIM TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED A TOTAL OF ALMOST A MILLION WORKS DAYS IN AGRICULTURE AND CONSTRUCTION WORK SINCE 1972. UTC BRIGADES HAVE ALSO RECENTLY BEEN PRESSED INTO SERVICE TO COMBAT SPREAD OF "MYSTICISM", I.E. RELIGION. NEVERTHELESS, DISSATISFACTION WITH THE EXTENT OF POLITICAL MOBILIZATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE PROVINCES, IS STILL EVIDENT. UTC FIRST SECRETARY STEFANESCU HAS CALLED FOR "RADICAL IMPROVEMENT" IN THE SITUATION AND ATTACKED UTC ACTIVITIES OF A PURELY "FESTIVE CHARACTER"

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LAST YEAR WE HEARD OF A PETITION BY UTC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CALLING FOR LESS "CENTRALISM" AND MORE "DEMOCRACY" IN UTC ACTIVITIES. CEAUSESCU'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTENT AND PACE OF CHANGE WITHIN UTC SINCE 1972 SHOULD BECOME CLEAR IN HIS OPENING SPEECH TO THE CONGRESS.

3. UTC LEADERSHIP CHANGES. NOTWITHSTANDING RUMBLES OF DISCONTENT WITH THE AMBITIOUS STEFANESCU'S LEADERSHIP FROM WITHIN UTC RANKS, THE RCP LEADERSHIP HAS SEEMED SATISFIED ENOUGH WITH HIS TENURE, AND STEFANESCU IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN. ONE YOUTH OFFICIAL REFERRING TO THE UTC FIRST SECRETARY'S OTHER POSITION OF MINISTER FOR YOUTH PROBLEMS, SAID "WE DO NOT WISH TO BE THE CAUSE OF A GOVERNMENTAL SHAKE-UP". HOWEVER, ONE RUMORED SHIFT IS THAT OF NICU CEAUSESCU, THE PRESIDENT'S SON, FROM THE UNION OF COMMUNIST STUDENTS ASSOCIATIONS (UASCR) WHERE HE IS NOW VICE-PRESIDENT TO THE UTC SECRETARIAT REPLACING THE AGING VASILE NICOLCIU WHO HAS HANDLED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR SOME 10 YEARS.

4. LDC CONTACTS. MORE THAN 115 FOREIGN STUDENT AND YOUTH DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S CONGRESS. BOTH UTC AND UASCR HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN TOLD TO EXPAND THEIR CONTACTS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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THEIR COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS ABROAD, BUT PARTICULARLY IN THE DEVELOPING OR "THIRD WORLD, IN LINE WITH CURRENT RCP FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES. THE GOR'S "NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER" SLOGANS WILL LIKELY BE AT FORE.

5. COMMENT. CEAUSESCU REMAINS CONCERNED OVER LACK OF COMMITMENT AND POLITICAL MOTIVATION HE SEES AMONG ROMANIA'S YOUTH AND AS USUAL HIS RESPONSE IS A CALL FOR MORE DISCIPLINE AND IDEOLOGICAL

CONFORMITY. PERIODIC CAMPAIGNS HAVE DEALT WITH MODISH ATTIRE,
LONG HAIR, BEARDS, ALCOHOL, SMOKING, AND PROMOTION OF THE TERM
"TOVARAS" (COMRADE) RATHER THAN THE STILL FREQUENT "DOMNUL"
(SIR). CEAUSESCU HIMSELF HAS DECRIED THE DIFFICULTY OF MOTIVATING
A GENERATION NOW REMOVED FROM THE MORE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THEIR FATHERS, BUT SO FAR HE HAS YET TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
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